TO ALL DEAR FRIENDS & BRETHREN

In the Everlasting

TRUTH & COVENANT

OF THE

Almighty Jehovah

Blessed for evermore.

WE the *Prisoners* of the Lord, and for the *Testimony* of *Christ Jesus*, do bear in our *remembrance* with *dearest Salutations* of perfect *love*, all our *suffering Brethren* every where, and also the whole *Flock* of our Fathers tender Love, whom he hath *elected* and *chosen* in his own secret Counsel before the world began; Dearly and well beloved, our very *Souls* this day, are deeply *affected* with the *Cause* of *God*, and our *persons* at this time are *engaged* in these *Bonds*, for the *Testimony* of the same; and truly, in *Soul*, *Body*, and *Spirit*, are we offered up to the perpetual *Love* of all, that the Name of the *Lord*, and his *saving Truth*, may be testified unto, in *faithfulness* unto all the worlds and in the Lord our hearts are *resolved* in the confidence of his Spirit, to *suffer* the greatest of *Afflictions* and *Persecutions*, rather than *forfeit* or *loose*, one grain of this so blessed a *Testimony*, now trusted with us, and for which, we now *suffer* these *Bonds*: And unto *faithfulness* herein, We find that the Lord our God daily *increaseth* our *strength* and *boldness*, our *patience* and *long suffering*, and doubleth his *Spirit* of *Power* and *Wisdom* upon us, that we may never *faint* in *Trial*; and we labour to be armed in our *inward man* with whatsoever may *uphold* us, and *defend* us in this day of our *Afflictions*; even that

our *faith* and *patience*, our *holiness* and *meekness*, our *long suffering*, and love to *enemies*; and all *Heavenly Vertues* may be compleated in us, and possessed of us, till our God take *Vengeance* upon the wrath of our *Adversaries*, and deliver his (now) *poor despised* and *oppressed people*; for these *Vertues* are the *armour* with which we delight to be cloathed; these are our *weapons* with which we chuse to be *defended*, and this must be our final *Victory*, when the *faith* and *patience*, the *meekness* and *long suffering*, and *heavenly Vertues of Christ Jesus* in us, have exceeded in *measure*, and *superabounded* in *effect*, all the *unbelief* and *impatiency*, the *enmity* and *ungodliness*, in all that hate us; *Love* shall overcome *wrath* and *envy*; *Patience* shall subdue *rigrous Persecutors*, and *hatefull workers*; the *very God* that dwells with us, shall *condemn* and *confound* the *wicked one*, with all his *might*, and *power*, and *malice*, and *Persecution*, cruel *Imposition* on tender Consciences, and *Oppression* and *Injustice* shall be no more: And this is that *Victory*, for which we *spiritually War*, and these and no other, are the *weapons* with which we do contend; and the *Cause* is *God's*, in which we are *ingaged*, and for which we *suffer* this present day.

Brethren, we hope ye are all *like-minded* with us, and that this same *Cause of God*, his *Truth* and *Righteousness* is *fixed* before you, and is your *aime* and *mark*, and that it is alike *dear* and *precious* in your eye, and that ye are *Armed* with the same *Armour* of God's heavenly *Vertues*; It's the *breathings* of our life to the *Father*, that the whole *Church* of *Christ*, and every *Member* thereof may be kept *faithful*, to hold forth the *holy Testimony of Jesus*, by *suffering* in this great day of Trial. The *Testimony* of which, we have *heard* and *learned*, *believed* and *received*, from God the Father into all our hearts, is so precious to us, in it's evidence of *Peace*, and *Comfort*, and *Justification*, and *Salvation*, in Eternal life in our inward man, that we compare no *afflictions*, nor present *sufferings* of our outward man, to the *price* and *vertue* thereof. For we can *say* in the verity of our *Souls*, how ever it shall go with our *outward man*, in respect of *Tribulations*, and *Persecutions*, yet in our *inward man*, we possess the *Peace*, and *Comfort*, and *Salvation* of the everlasting God; and to bear forth the *Testimony* of this in our age to the world, even of that *Love* and *Life*, *Mercy*, *Justification* and *Salvation* which we have received, we can forgo *Liberty*, *Life*, and *all*: For this is *our duty* to which we are *called*, and the *end* for which we were *born*, to bear *witness* to the *Truth*, and for the *holding forth* of this *witness*, we are given up in *Soul*, *Body*, and *Spirit*, *to suffer the loss of all*, rather than to *loose* this *Testimony-bearing* to the view of the world.

Wherefore, we *beseech* and *exhort* all of you, that have tasted of the loving

loving kindness of our God, That ye be faithful and valiant this day in the Cause of God; not fearing the fury of the ungodly, nor the threats of enemies, nor the terrors of this world, nor seeking to save your own lives; but in the *faith* and *patience*, pressing forward in the race of Righteousness, till *Mercy*, *Peace*, *Justice*, and *true Judgment*, run down as a stream, willing to *suffer* the *loss of all*, that *Truth* and *Righteousness* may live upon earth, and the *worship* of the *true God* be *exalted*, and all the contrary *overturned*, and this is the *reward* of all the *Saints Afflictions*. Be *faithful* in your *Trials*, let *Estates*, *Relations*, *Life*, and *all* go, rather than the cause of *Truth* and *Righteousness* be diminished of it's Glory, by the *unfaithfulness* of any this day. Surely our *hearts* are *zealous* for this matter, and we are pressed in *Spirit*, to *encourage* all the *Lords people* to put on all *holy confidence* in this day, and to cast away *all unbelief*, *doubtings* and *fears* of this *world*, and to maintain the *Truth* of *God's worship* in the *assemblings* of his people together, in the *strength* and *power* of the *Lord Jesus Christ*; even *to live in it*, and *to dye for it*, to enjoy God's *pure Worship*, and to *suffer the losse of all*, if called thereunto.

We know you are not *ignorant* concerning *this Cause of God*, which we thus *assert*, and *exhort* you to be *faithful* in; It's no other than the *Testimony* of a *pure Conscience* towards our Creator, and that every *person* should *follow Christ*, and *obey him*, and walk in the *light* and *life* of his Spirit, which he hath revealed in the *heart*; & that *God* should be *feared* and *worshiped* in a clean Conscience, and that the *Salvation* of God may be *testified* of; *This* and *no other* is the *Cause of God*, in which our *Souls* and *Bodies* are ingaged, we know no *Cause* upon earth, worth our *Afflictions* and *Sufferings*, nor for which we will contend with any, save *for the Salvation of God*, and that his *Justice* and *Mercy*, his *Truth* and *Righteousness*, his *Way* and *Worship* may be *Exalted* upon earth, and all the contrary *subdued* by his mighty Power. This is the very *cause* compared, to which *our mortality* is not to be accounted, even that we may behold God's *Salvation* going forth in the *Testimony* of it to all Nations, and that *Nations* and *Peoples*, may injoy *Justice* and *Truth*, *Liberty* and *Freedom*, in the pure worship of the living God; This is the Cause that must live, [the Lord hath spoken it] though for it we may die; for our *All* is adventured upon the same.

But whilest our *hearts* are pouring forth daily *Prayers* towards God, and *Exhortations* towards you, that you may be *faithful* to give publick *Testimony* to the *Name*, *Truth*, and *Salvation* of God, our *Souls* also desire that you all may *eat* and *drink* of that *spiritual food*, which will cause your inward man to grow, and that your *own hearts* may be kept *pure*

and undefiled in his *Presence*, and that the *Seed of Life*, with the *fruits and blessings* thereof may fill your own Souls; that while you are striving by *patience* and *long suffering* against your *outward enemies*, no *inward enemy* of *evil lusts* or *affections*, *strife* or *divisions*, or any thing of this *world* may enter into your bosoms to defile you.

Dearly Beloved alwayes have a *special regard* unto your *Standing* as to *Godward*, and what increase of *Life*, *Love*, *Peace* and *Comfort*, ye daily receive in your spiritual man knowing, that by the inward *vertue* of the Fathers *presence*, the *Peace* and *Joy* of God in your *inward man* daily received from him, by *that* must you stand in *strength* and *dominion* against all enemies *within* and *without*. Therefore, feel the *Seed of God*, and it's *growth* and *increase* in your own hearts, that you may have perfect *Peace* and *Union* with God in Spirit, while ye are bearing *publick Testimony*, by *doing* or *suffering* for his *Truth* and *Name*.

J. C. And Brethren, our *hearts* and *Souls* reach unto, and dearly *Salute you all*; for while we remember the *Lord* and his *goodness* unto us, we cannot forget you, no not the *least babe* and *little one* amongst you all, for what are *we*, or *you*, or *all* of us together, joyntly, or apart; but what we are in his *life*, *love* and *peace*, that endureth for ever; whose *Mercies*, *Glory*, *Riches* and *Goodness*, as so many sparkling *Diamonds* and *Jewels* of Value, adorn our *Crown* and make it *Glorious*, and every one doth shine with *Lustre* and *Beauty* in the eyes of all that beholdns; and whilest we are so Adorned, may we not say, our *cloathings* are *white* and *fine*, such as are in *Kings Houses*, and our *attire* no other than what becometh *Princes*? and what ever we have been it matters not, except to set forth the *favour* and *goodness* of him, that hath so raised us from the *dunghil* amongst the *Beggars*, to sit upon *Thrones* in Glory with *Princes*? and to shew how the *Angel of Gods presence* hath *saved*, and taken us from our *begging state*, at the *Rich mans gate*, like so many *Lazaruses*, *bruised* and *wounded*, from head to foot; and carried us into *Abrahams bosom*, where we are at Rest, praising our *God*, and our *King* of Riches and Mercy for ever.

Dear Friends, we write unto you *all*, that *you* may partake with us of the same *life*, *glory*, *rest* and *peace*, and not only *drops* and *sprinklings* of the same, but *full measures*, *heaped up*, and *running over*: for you are our witnesses, that *we*, with the rest of our Faithful brethren, have not wickedly kept from you, the whole *Counsel of God* revealed to *us*, and in *us*, according to the *good pleasure of our Lord* and *Master*; neither have we

keep back from declaring to you his *Mind*, and the *Mysteries* of his *Kingdom*, yea, his *hidden mysteries*; (which have been hid in God since the world began) and that *in season*, and *out of season*, at all *times* and *places*, as he hath given us opportunities, and required us so to do; and that not in words, which man's wisdom teacheth, (lest thereby we should make void the Cross of Christ), but in *plainness* and *simplicity*, that *God's Witness* in every *Conscience* might answer us, and we unto *every Conscience* might be made manifest in God's sight, as we know we are this day, and we have our reward, from the Lord of the Harvest that sent us forth; and this adds to our *comfort* in this day, that *we were faithful* unto our God in what he committed to our charge: And now, what is *ours*, and our *Brethrens reward*, and *Crown* of rejoycing, but this, That you stand *faithful* in this time of *Trial*, for you know we have not been like unto those who have begotten into the *dry Spirit*, that so you might be alwayes kept in the unfruitfulness, *ever learning*, but *never get ability* to *learn* and *perform* what you have been *taught*; for what we have *received* from *Christ*, by vertue of his *Resurrection* and *Ascension*, is *perfect*, and hath been Ministred unto you, for the perfecting of you *all*, with the rest of the *Sanctified ones* in *Christ Jesus*, until you all come to a *perfect man* in Christ, even unto the *fulness of the measure of the stature of Christ*. For which we pray, and desire of our God and Father for you all.

Let your Meetings be in *God's fear* and *Counsel*, as at other times, never heeding what man can *do* unto you; but still be you *all followers* of that which is *good*, and then, who can, or shall *harm* you? keep in the *Love* to, and *unity* with *that of God in all*. Let the *witness of God* in you answer your *words* and *actions*, rendering to none *evil* for *evil*, but overcoming the *evil* with the *good*; so shall you be known to be the *servants* of the *Living God*, and *followers* of the *Lamb* as dear children. And be *terrified* in *nothing*, as from any of the sons of men, that can *hurt* you; for all *your hairs* are numbred, and not *one* shall fall, without *Gods Providence*; neither shall the *wrath of the wicked* be *unbounded*, but what ever turns not to his *praise*, that he will *restrain*, and the Day of your Deliverance hasteth: only look not you *out*, but keep *close* unto the *Lord*, with your eyes only *towards him*, and not *upon*, or unto any *temporal*, or *visible thing*; but alone unto the *Lord God of Life*, and unto the *measure of himself* made manifest in *your own hearts*; for unto *That* you were *directed* at the *beginning*, and in *It* is *your safety* and *preservation* unto the end.

J. P.

And Dear Brethren, the Lord God Almighty, who is now *Alone Salvation*, having laid the thoughts of the *Cause* of our *sufferings* near unto the *Secrets* of his own *Soul*, uttereth *his Voice out of Sion*, to you *his Children*, in his City *Jerusalem*, saying, Stand up ye *babes* of my *blessings*, and *you sons* and *daughters* of *my love*, Gird, Gird on Strength in this day of *my battel*; for lo, *My Banner* is over you, *My Standard* is with you, *My Ensigns* is displaid amongst you, and *My everlasting Power* and *Omnipotency* attends you: And I shall *not fail you*, I will *not leave you* in the *day of Adversity*, nor *forsake you* in the time of *Captivity*; for I have *Chosen you*, I have *Called you*, I have *Purchased you*, after the travail of my Soul for *you*; And *Blood*, even the *everlasting blood* of the *Covenant* of *my life* was paid as a Ransome for *you*; and now you are no more *your Own*, but *Mine*; and I cannot be *Hid*, nor *Separated from you*, but as *I am faithful*, I will *be with you*; as *you* have had me *your God* in all *your Tribulations* and *sufferings*, wherein I did bear both *you*, and *your Griefs*, and all *your Afflictions* in the yearning Bowels of my Tenderness; which yet I will *Break*, I will *Break*, I will *Break*, more *infinitely* open unto you, which shall *melt*, and *dissolve you*, and make you *stream* to me, as I am *flaming streams* of *love* and *life* towards you: I will *reach you* in *your Holes*; *Bolts*, nor *bars of Brass* or *Iron*, nor *walls* like Mountains shall shut *me* from *you*; but in *your Dens* and *Dungeons* I will come in *among you*, and walk in the midst *of you*, and you shall know that I am the *Comforter* of your Hearts, and the *Rejoycer* and *Gladder* of your Spirits, in all the times of *your needs*; And whilst *the Yoke* is upon *your Necks*, and the *oppressive Burdens* upon *your Backs*, and I bearing *both you*, and *your Burdens* over the *Raging Seas*, that are *angry* at my Voice, and *troubled* at the Breathings of *my life*: I will *trouble* the *Hosts* of the *Philistims*, their *Horses* shall *fail them*, their *Chariots* shall *not stand* in *any stead* unto them, for I will *Break the Wheels* and the *Axeltrees*, and *they shall fall*, they *shall fall*, they *shall fall*, I the *Jehovah* of *Israel*, the *mighty God of little Jacob* have spoken it, & it shall surely *come to pass*, and *you* shall *be delivered* by the Hand of *my Power*, saith the Lord. And therefore *sing you Lambs*, and *Rejoyce you my little tender babes* in that I have *Travelled* for you, and *born* and *brought you forth* unto the *day* of my *glory*, in the *Glory* and the *Excellency* thereof, to witness *my Name* of *Power*, which will *scatter* all the *chaff* that is heaped up as *Mountains* against you, that *you*, whom I have *planted*, may *prosper* as a *fruitful Vineyard*, That the abundance of the fruits of *blessedness*, in the power of *my Righteousness*, may be brought forth in *you*, to *your Joy*, and *mine Honour*, even for ever.

Ah

My Brethren, our very *Hearts* and *Souls* are *overcome*, and *ravished*, whilst we consider the *endless love* and *everlasting riches* of the *favours* and *mercies* of our FATHER towards us; and that he hath *revealed* his *Hand* to deal *bountifully* unto us; yet but *a little*, but *a little*, and he will *give it*, and make the *emptiest Vessel* as an *over-running River*, whose Banks cannot contein the Streams for fulness. It is *his love*, *his love*, even his *endless everlasting Love* that *over-powers* us, which is not contenable *within us*, but must *run* and *flow*, from the Movings of the great *Oceans*, as the *swiftest streams* into your *tender bolanes*, that you may be refreshed *in us*, in which the Answer will return into *our Bowels*, and *our Joy* will thereby be *augmented*, and *increased*: And we must in the pure *living sense* of all, our *hearts* shall be always *full* of the *praise* of our God, who in all his *blessed works* is worthy of *all Honour*, and everlasting *Thanksgiving*, and *Glory*, even of us, and all his *Saints* and *Children* for evermore; who, *in him*, are *yours* to serve, both *Him*, and *You*, in *doing* and *suffering*, whatever is his good pleasure concerning us: And in him, *everlasting Blessings* and *Peace* be multiplied to you all, Amen.

Newgate Prison, the 12th. of the 4th. Month 1662. E. B. *J. C. J. P.*

The *Cogitations* of *my heart* have been *many*, *deep*, and *ponderous*, some *Moneths*, *Weeks* and *Dayes*, concerning *his People*, which he hath raised to bear TESTIMONY unto his Name, in this the day of his Power; And Intercession hath been made often for them to the Lord, and a patient waiting to know his *Mind* concerning them for the time to come, which often I received Satisfaction in, as to my self; but yet still something I was drawn by the Lord to *wait for*, that I might *comfort* and *strengthen* his *Flock* by an *allowed Testimony*. And while I was waiting out of all Visible things, and quite out of the World, in my Spirit, and my heart upon nothing but the Living God, the Lord *opened* the *springs* of the *great Deep*, and *overflowed* my whole Heart with *Life* and *Love*, and my *Eyes* were as a Fountain, because of *tears* of *Joy*, because of his Heritage: Of whom he shewed me, and spake unto me, in a full fresh living Power, and a holy full Testimony; so that my heart was ravished therewith, with Joy unspeakable, and I was out of the Body with God, in his Heavenly Paradise; Where I saw, and felt things Unutterable, beyond all demonstration, or speech. At last the Life closed with my Understanding, and my spirit listened unto him; And the everlasting God said,

Said, *Shall I hide any thing from them that seek my face in Righteousness?* I will manifest it to them that fear me: I will speak, Do even unto, and multiply it amongst all my People, that they may be Translated, and thou Saved. And thus said the Living God of Heaven and Earth,

Upon the 28th. of the 3d. Month, 1661.

The *Sun* shall leave its shining *Brightness*, and cease to give light to the *World*; and the *Moon* shall be altogether *Darkness*, and give no light unto the Night; the *Stars* shall cease to know their *Office*, or *Place*; My *Covenant* with *Day* and *Night*, *Times* and *Seasons* shall sooner come to *an end*, than the *Covenant* I have made with this People (into which they are entred with me) shall *End*, or *be Broken*, and My *Word* is Unchangeable; yea, though the *powers of Darkness*, and *Hell* combine against them, and the *Jawes of Death* open its mouth, yet I will deliver them, and lead them through all; I will Confound their *Enemies*, as I did in *Jacob*, and Scatter them, as I did in *Israel*, in the dayes of Old; I will take *their Enemies*, and I will hurle them hither, and thither from me, even as stones are hurled out of a Sling; and the memorial of *this Nation*, which is holy unto me, shall Never be Rooted out, but shall Live through Ages, as A cloud of Witnesses in Generations to come. I have brought them to the *birth*, I have brought *them forth*, I have *loaded them*, and they are *Mine*; I will *nourish* them, and carry *them* as on *Eagles wings*; and though Clouds gather against them, I will make my way Through them, and though Tempests gather together on a heap, and *Tempests* gender, I will Scatter them as with an Eagle wing, and Nations shall know they are My Inheritance, and they shall know I am the Living God, who will plead their Cause with all that *Rise up in Opposition* against them.

These Words are Holy, Faithful, Eternal, Good, and True. Blessed are they that Hear and Believe unto the End. And because of them no strength was left in me for a while; but at last, my Heart was filled with Joy, even as when the Ark of God was brought from the house of *Obed Edom*, when *David* danced before it for Gladness, and *Israel* shouted for Joy.

Ergo, Howgill.

THE END.

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